(b) if so, the details thereof and the assistance sought for the purpose and proposed to be released; and

(c) the policy of direct support for survival of Indian ship building yards?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Action has already been initiated by the Government to process the proposals relating to capital restructuring of Hindustan Shipyard Limited and re-introduction of subsidy scheme.

Membership of APEC

2452. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK :
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :
SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken so far, to gain the Membership of APEC;

(b) whether India had sought admission in APEC as a Member;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether India's request had been opposed by some powerful countries;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the names of such countries; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to meet the APEC's standard of economic liberalisation?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. India had formally conveyed to members of APEC its interest in associating with APEC and participating in its activities. This has been taken up on a sustained basis with APEC member economies both directly as well as through our diplomatic Missions in these countries. The subject of India's membership has also been raised with individual APEC member economies during high level bilateral interactions, for example, the subject was taken up at the Foreign Ministers level during the ASEAN-Post Ministerial Conference in Jakarta in July 1996. It has also been discussed bilaterally during other ministerial meetings.

(d) and (e) We are not aware of any such opposition. In fact, APEC had decided in November 1993 to impose a moratorium for three years on admission of new members into APEC. The recent APEC Summit Meeting in Philippines during November 1996 did not admit any new member, but decided to evolve a criteria for admission of new members to be finalised at the next APEC Summit scheduled at Vancouver in 1997.

(f) India will continue to reiterate its interest in membership of APEC on the basis of its geographical location, degree of trade and investment interaction and potential, size of India's economy, and ability to contribute to larger Asia-Pacific economic cooperation and liberalisation.

[Translation]

Scheme to Revive Dead Rivers

2453. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item which appeared in the 'Financial Express' dated September 10, 1996 under the heading "Japan offers tech. to revive dead rivers";

(b) if so, whether the Government have identified such rivers in the the country which have become unuseful because of pollution;

(c) if so, the details of such rivers;

(d) whether the Government propose to formulate a scheme to increase the quantum of waters in these rivers, accelerate their pace of flow and dig up the deposited soil/silt from them;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and whether the effect of pollution will be leasened by digging the silt from them; and

(f) if so, the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir. However, the Government have not received any offer from the Government of Japan in this regard.

(b) to (f). Do not arise.

[English]

Mangalore Port

2454. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal for the development of the hinterland of the new Mangalore Port;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in that regard;

(c) the fund earmarked therefor; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (d). The development of hinterland does not vest with New Mangalore Port Trust.